North Dakota Public Service Commission

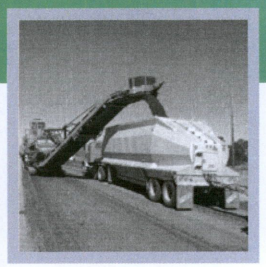
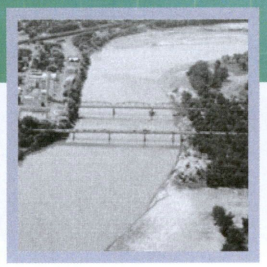
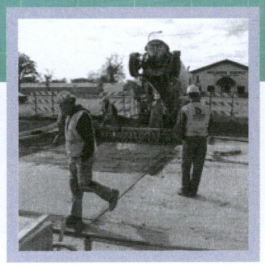
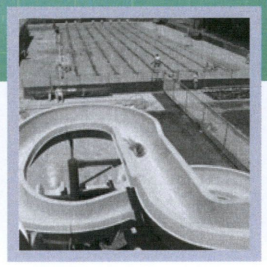
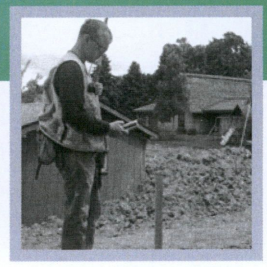
Topsoil Removal Inspection Report of Xcel Energy Minot Load Serving Project

Section 2, T154N R82W, 5th P.M.
Ward County, North Dakota
and
Section 2, T152N R80W, 5th P.M.
McHenry County, North Dakota

pared By:
INTERSTAT ENGINEERING

(Project No. B17-00-100)
November 2017

Contents

INTERSTATE ENGINEERING

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Act (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) authorizes the Public Service Commission (Commission) to determine that the location, construction, and operation of jurisdictional energy conversion and transmission facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota. Commission construction inspections ensure that energy projects are constructed in compliance with the siting laws (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22), rules (North Dakota Administrative Code Article 69-06) and applicable Commission Orders.

The Commission retained Interstate Engineering, Inc. (Interstate) to complete construction inspections of the Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, Minot Load Serving Project, Case No. PU-17-102, which is currently under construction in McHenry and Ward Counties in North Dakota. The Project involves the construction of a new substation, called the Magic City Substation, and an approximately 20.5 mile-long 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line connecting the new substation to an existing substation, the McHenry Substation, near the City of Velva.

Construction of the Project commenced on October 9, 2017. Interstate conducted the Topsoil Removal and Replacement Inspection on October 23, 2017 at the Magic City Substation site and October 31, 2017 at the McHenry Substation site. Interstate prepared this report to document the topsoil removal and replacement inspection and to provide a summary of compliance with the Commission Orders.

The purpose of the Topsoil Removal and Replacement Inspection was to observe the completion of the topsoil removal phase to verify that topsoil had been properly removed and kept segregated from subsoil as well as the start of the topsoil replacement phase to verify that topsoil had been properly replaced. The inspection continued until the inspector determined that the equipment operators had demonstrated proficiency concerning topsoil removal and replacement, in accordance with the Certification Relating to Order Provisions for Case PU-17-102. Photographs taken during the site inspection are included in Appendix B. The inspector took photos of the grading activities to document that the subsoil piles are separated from the topsoil piles.

2. TOPSOIL REMOVAL INSPECTION

On October 23, 2017, Ms. Veronica Meyer, working under Mr. Damon DeVillers, Project Manager at Interstate, conducted the topsoil removal and replacement inspection at the Magic City Substation site. Ms. Meyer met with Mr. Joe Sabo and was told that all topsoil had been removed. Ms. Meyer verified that the topsoil was segregated and in compliance with the Commission's Order. Ms. Meyer also verified topsoil replacement depths which were typically 6 to 8 inches.

On October 31, 2017, Ms. Meyer conducted the topsoil removal and replacement inspection at the McHenry Substation site. Ms. Meyer met with Mr. Mike Muellenbach and informed him that she would be verifying that the contractor was continuing to keep the topsoil segregated and that the replacement depth was acceptable. Ms. Meyer also verified topsoil replacement depths which were typically 6-8 inches. Pictures were taken observing the depth of topsoil replacement. Overall, the topsoil removal and replacement activities were satisfactory and the inspector determined that the equipment operators had demonstrated proficiency concerning topsoil removal and replacement in compliance with the Commission's Order.

3. CONCERNS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

During the topsoil removal and replacement inspection, no concerns were observed at either substation site. Therefore, no corrective actions were needed.

4. CONCLUSION

Generally, the topsoil removal and replacement within the sites appeared to be satisfactory and consistent with the Commission's Order. Based on the field observations and photographs, the Interstate Inspector (Ms. Meyer) determined that equipment operators demonstrated proficiency concerning topsoil removal and replacement in compliance with the Commission's Order.

5. SIGNATURE

Observations and findings contained in this report are based on available information, daily field reports and photographs in a generally accepted technically practice at the present time.

Project Manager Damon K. DeVillers, PE, President.

Damon DeVillers

Damon K. DeVillers, PE, President
Interstate Engineering, Inc.

11/22/2017
Date

Veronica M. Meyer

Veronica Meyer, PE
Interstate Engineering, Inc.

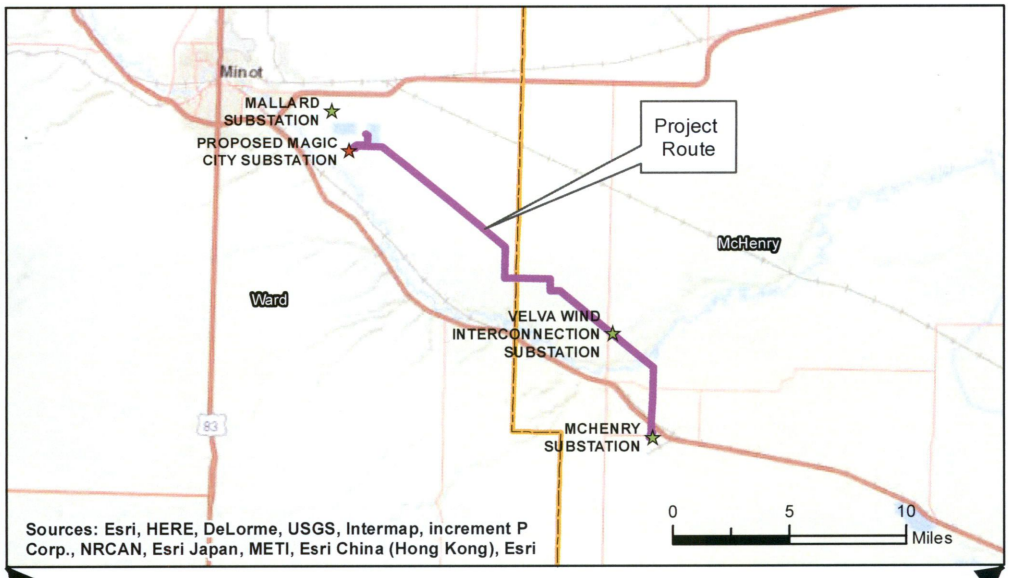
11/22/2017
Date

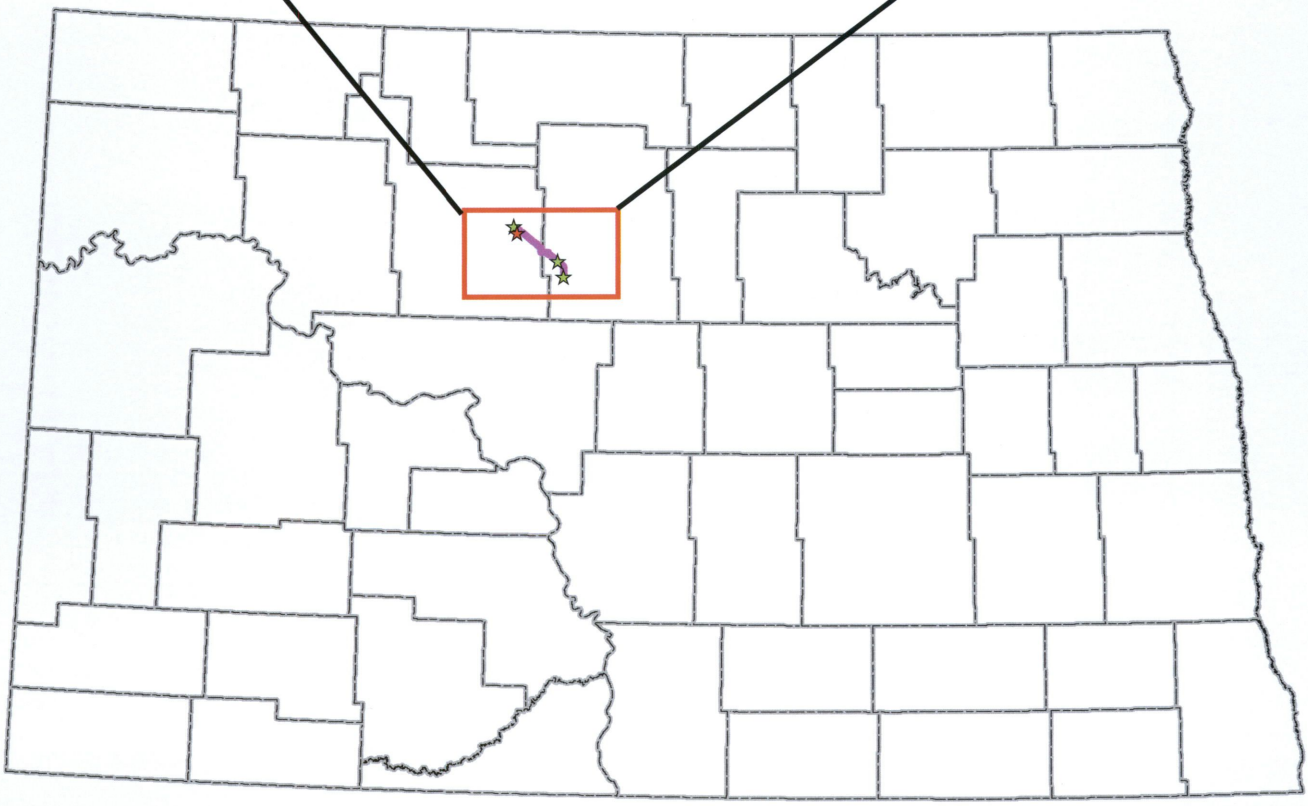
6. REFERENCES

Joe Warner, Foreman for U.S. SiteWorks
11040 183rd Circle NW, Suite B, Elk River, MN 55330, October 2017

Joe Sabo, Superintendent for Carl Bolander & Sons
251 Starkey Street, St. Paul, MN 55107, October 2017

North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) Online Case Search. Available from http://www.psc.nd.gov/database/docket_file_list.php (Accessed May 2017)





North Dakota

Legend

- Project Route
- Proposed Substation
- Substation

20 0 20 Miles

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Minot Load Serving Project

McHenry and Ward Counties, North Dakota

Figure 1
Project Location Map
March 2017

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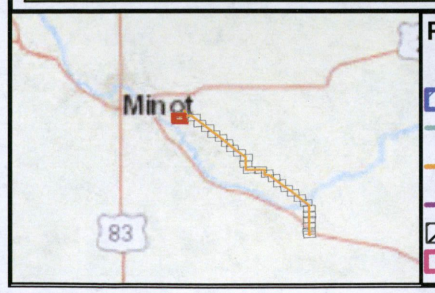

Project Feature
- Preliminary Structure Location
- Potential Laydown Area
- Preliminary 115 kV Centerline
- Preliminary 230 kV Centerline
- Preliminary 230/115 kV Centerline
- Preliminary Right-of-Way (125 Feet)
- Project Corridor

Property Ownership
- Parcel Boundary

Desktop Wetland Review
- Wetland

Access Route
- Primary Access

N

0 200 400 Feet

Minot Load Serving Project
Appendix B - Project Sheet Map
McHenry and Ward Counties, North Dakota

Prepared For: Xcel Energy® RESPONSIBLE BY NATURE®

Prepared By: TETRA TECH

Drawn:	MAR 3/9/2017
Approved:	LHK 3/9/2017
Scale:	1:4,800
PROJECT NUMBER	60342328
SHEET MAP	1

Project Feature
- Preliminary Structure Location
- Potential Laydown Area
- Preliminary 115 kV Centerline
- Preliminary 230 kV Centerline
- Preliminary 230/115 kV Centerline
- Preliminary Right-of-Way (125 Feet)
- Project Corridor

Property Ownership
- Parcel Boundary

Stream/River
- Stream (Intermittent)

Desktop Wetland Review
- Wetland

Access Route
- Primary Access

N

0 200 400 Feet

Minot Load Serving Project
Appendix B - Project Sheet Map
McHenry and Ward Counties, North Dakota

Prepared For: Xcel Energy® RESPONSIBLE BY NATURE®

Prepared By: TETRA TECH

Drawn:	MAR 3/9/2017
Approved:	LHK 3/9/2017
Scale:	1:4,800
PROJECT NUMBER	60342328
SHEET MAP	27

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Photo 1 - Topsoil pile on southwest corner of site

Photo 2 – South pond with topsoil replacement

Photo 3 - 7″ topsoil replacement depth on southwest bank corner of south pond

Photo 4 – 8″ topsoil replacement depth on south bank of south pond

Photo 4 – 7″ topsoil replacement depth northwest corner of site

Photo 5 – 7″ topsoil replacement depth northwest corner of site

Photo 6 - 7″ topsoil replacement depth northwest corner of site

Photo 7 – 5″ topsoil replacement depth southeast corner of site